

ACREAGE OF CROPS, SEASON 1930-31.

The Government Statist reports having completed an estimate of the probable acreage either sown or intended to be sown with Cereals for the Season 1930-31. This estimate is based on returns received some time ago from farmers in each agricultural hundred of the State. It should be understood that the estimate represents the area farmers anticipated sowing. The serious lack of early seasonal rains would have prevented many farmers actually sowing to the extent anticipated and in some districts resowing will be necessary. It is thought, however, that the bountiful general rains of early July may so now expedite sowing that the estimate based on early reports may prove to be reasonably accurate.

Following the usual practice further reports will be obtained after all sowing is completed when the whole of the figures will be reviewed for a more confident estimate to be issued in September.

ESTIMATED WHEAT ACREAGE.

Division	Actual 1930 Acres	Estimated 1930-31 Acres	Increase Acres
Central	639,010	691,000	51,990
Lower North	894,623	918,000	23,377
Upper North	281,523	326,000	44,477
South Eastern	50,356	68,000	17,644
Western	1,088,053	1,273,000	184,947
Murray Mallee	1,033,745	1,168,000	134,255
Total State	3,987,310	4,444,000	456,690

BARLEY.- Actual 1929-30- 320,123 ac; Estimated 1930-31- 280,000.

OATS.- Actual 1929-30- 520,428 ac; Estimated 1930-31- 512,000.

EXPANSION OF LAST FIVE SEASONS. The total area sown for all purposes with Wheat, Barley and Oats has increased from 3,410,213 ac. in 1925-26 to 4,827,861 ac. for 1929-30.- a four years increase of 1,417,648 ac. with a further increase of 408,000 ac. if the estimated intended sowing of 5,236,000 ac. for 1930-31 is realised.

PROSPECTS.- Notwithstanding the serious shortage of rain to the end of June, statistics indicate that with the bountiful general rains of this month, followed up by good spring rains to November, the State may yet reap a reasonable harvest.

FIVE YEARS CLEARING OF NEW LAND. During the last five years 886,381 ac. have been cleared in the Western Division 225,782 during 1929-30 and 725,301 ac. in the Murray Mallee Division, 138,233 ac. during 1929-30. The total for the whole State is 1,726,258 ac. and 392,168 ac. for year 1929-30.

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ADELAIDE.

16th July, 1930.

GOVERNMENT STATIST & C.